

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 029453

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CPAS, CVIS, LY

SUBJECT: VISA ISSUANCE TO LIBYANS

FOLL SENT ACTION TRIPOLI INFO NATO USUN FROM SECSTATE 15 FEB 73
REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 029453

SUBJ: VISA ISSUANCE TO LIBYANS

REF: STATE 26696 (NOTAL)

1. IN RESPONSE TO QUERY BY DEPTOFF (REFTEL) LIBYAN EMBOFF
GADDOUR CALLED FEB 14 TO GIVE FOLLOWING RUN-DOWN OF REQUIREMENTS
FOR VISA ISSUANCE BY LIBYAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON:

A. FOR BUSINESSMEN INTENDING TO RESIDE IN LIBYA, EMBASSY WILL
REQUIRE INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE LIBYAN MINISTRY OF INTERIOR TO
ISSUE VISA.

B. FOR VISITING BUSINESSMEN SUCH AS OIL COMPANY EMPLOYEES AND
EMPLOYEES OF OIL SERVICE COMPANIES, EMBASSY WILL REQUIRE ONLY
LETTER FROM THE COMPANIES CONCERNED, STATING THE PERSON'S
BUSINESS AND WHY IS HIS PRESENCE REQUIRED IN LIBYA. SUCH A LETTER
ADDRESSED TO THE EMBASSY CAN COME FROM THE HOME OFFICE OF COMPANY
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US AND NEED NOT COME FROM ITS LIBYAN AFFILIATE.

C. EMBASSY WILL ISSUE VISAS TO DEPENDENTS OF RESIDENTS IN LIBYA INCLUDING SPOUSES, CHILDREN, SON- IN- LAWS AND DAUGHTER- IN- LAWS, INCLUDING CHILDREN VISITING FAMILIES DURING HOLIDAY PERIODS, UPON RECEIPT OF LETTER OUTLINING CIRCUMSTANCES FOR REQUESTING VISA FROM THE COMPANY EMPLOYING RESIDENT INDIVIDUAL IN QUESTION.

D. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL VISAS BE ISSUED TO TOURISTS.

E. VISAS WILL BE ISSUED TO JOURNALISTS ONLY WITH PRIOR PERMISSION FROM LARG. LIBYAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON IS WILLING TO CABLE TRIPOLI TO INQUIRE WHETHER A SPECIFIC JOURNALIST CAN BE ISSUED VISA.

F. DIPLOMATS PERMANENTLY ASSIGNED TO LIBYA WOULD BE EXEMPTED FROM REQUIREMENT TO HAVE PASSPORTS IN ARABIC, BUT EMBASSY WILL NOT ISSUE VISAS TO SUCH PERSONS WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS FROM TRIPOLI.

G. DIPLOMATS VISITING LIBYA, INCLUDING COURIERS, WOULD NEED ARABIC IN PASSPORTS.

2. LOCAL EMPLOYEE OF CONSULAR SECTION IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION SAID THAT TRIPOLI HAS NOW AGREED TO ISSUE VIAS TO UN ACCOUNTANT CARRYING UN LAISSEZ- PASSER (USUN 352). HE SAID LARG DECIDED TO TREAT HIM IN THE SAME MANNER AS A BUSINESSMAN GOING TEMPORARILY TO LIBYA. (THIS APPEARS SOMEWHAT CONTRADICTORY TO POLICY IN PARA (G) ABOVE).

3. IT APPEARS THAT THE LIBYAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON MAY NOW HAVE RECEIVED GUIDANCE ON PASSPORT ISSUANCE BEYOND MERE LISTING OF CATEGORIES OF PERSONS EXEMPT FROM ARABIC REQUIREMENT, BUT CLEARLY DECISION ON HOW TO TREAT VISITING DIPLOMATS, INCLUDING COURIERS, REMAINS UNRESOLVED. APPEARS VISITS OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO LIBYA AT THIS POINT STILL WILL BE CONSIDERED ONLY ON CASE BY CASE BASIS, WITH DECISION RESTING WITH THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR.

4. IN CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR SUWESI JUST PRIOR TO HIS RETURN TO LIBYA, AF/ N DIRECTOR BLAKE ASKED WHETHER HE WOULD RECEIVE VISA SHOULD WISH TO VISIT LIBYA. SUWESI RESPONDED THAT HE FRANKLY DID NOT KNOW.

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5. RE LIBYAN EMBASSY REQUEST (TRIPOLI 168) TO ISSUE STUDENT VISAS TO DREEHA AND SHERIF, REQUEST YOU SEEK APPOINTMENT WITH MFA UNDERSECRETARY NA' AS AND REFER TO FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. HIS REQUEST THAT WE ISSUE VISAS TO FIFTEEN STUDENTS (TRIPOLI 118):

B. OUR AGREEMENT TO RESPOND TO HIS REQUEST AND TO ISSUE FIFTEEN VISAS HE REQUESTED IN THE HOPE THIS WOULD LEAD LARG TO TAKE APPROPRIATE STEPS TO NORMALIZE VISA AND TRAVEL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES (STATE 20652):

C. REQUEST FROM LIBYAN EMBASSY TO ISSUE TWO ADDITIONAL VISAS (REFTEL):

D. STATEMENT ABOVE BY LIBYAN EMBOFF GADDOUR TO DEPTOFF THAT ALL DIPLOMATS VISITING LIBYA , INCLUDING COURIERS, WOULD REQUIRE PASSPORTS WRITTEN IN ARABIC LANGUAGE:

E. THE CONTINUING UNCERTAINTY AND CONFUSION REGARDING ENTRY OF OTHERS TO LIBYA SUCH AS AGRIBUSINESS TRADE MISSION DELEGATION, COMMERCE OFFICER CHRISTENSEN, INTERNAL REVENUE OFFICER FROM ROME, FAA OFFICER FROM BEIRUT , DEPTOFFS FROM WASHINGTON , AND OTHERS PROCEEDING ON LEGITIMATE BUSINESS, INCLUDING THOSE IN POSSESSION OF VALID LIBYAN VISAS.

6. YOU SHOULD SAY THAT DESPITE OUR GESTURE TO NA' AS IN REGARD TO FIFTEEN STUDENTS, IT APPEARS TO US THAT LARG HAS MADE NO RPT NO SIGNIFICANT STEPS TO NORMALIZE VISA AND TRAVEL RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. YOU SHOULD ADD THAT IN VIEW OF THIS ADDITIONAL REQUEST BY THE LIBYAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON FOR VISA ISSUANCE, THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WHILE CONTINUING ITS ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW OF OUTSTANDING VISA APPLICATIONS BY LIBYAN NATIONALS, HAS INSTRUCTED YOU TO INQUIRE AGAIN WHAT ASSURANCES NA- AS CAN GIVE THAT HIS GOVERNMENT IS TAKING ACTION TO NORMALIZE VISA ISSUANCE AND ENTRY PROCEDURES IN ACCORDANCE WITH ACCEPTED INTERNAL LAW AND PRACTICE. IF ASKED YOU MAY SAY THAT WE WILL AWAIT HIS RESPONSE BEFORE CONSIDERING MAKING POSSIBLE FURTHER EXCEPTIONS TO OUR ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW OF LIBYAN VISA APPLICATIONS.

7. SHOULD NA- AS COMPLAIN THAT US IS REFUSING ALL LIBYAN VISA
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APPLICANTS, YOU MAY POINT OUT THIS IS NO SO, CITING 15 STUDENTS, TWO BUSINESSMEN (STATE 28366), AND OFFICIALS ON WAY TO UN. YOU MAY ADD IF APPROPRIATE IN CIRCUMSTANCES THAT WE OF COURSE WISH TO BE POSITIVE FLEXIBLE, AND FORTHCOMING, BUT UNFORTUNATELY

HAVE SEEN NO SIGN AS YET THAT LARG WILLING TO PURSUE PROBLEM IN THE SAME SPIRIT. PROBLEM COULD HAVE BEEN EASILY SOLVED AB INITIO HAD LARG FOLLOWED SAME TRANSLATION PROCEDURES FOR PASSPORTS THAT WE HAVE FOLLOWED FOR OVER A YEAR. IF LARG WISHES TO EXCLUDE CERTAIN CATEGORIES OF PERSONS SUCH AS TOURISTS, HAT IS OF COURSE ITS DECISION . BUT USG CANNOT BE INDIFFERENT TO HARDSHIP CREATED FOR ITS CITIZENS BY ARBITRARY , INCONSISTENT, DISCRIMINATORY AND CAPRICIOUS APPLICATION OF VAGUE REGULATIONS. IN PARTICULAR WE CANNOT BE INDIFFERENT TO DISRUPTION IN NORMAL AND NECESSARY VISITS OF OFFICIALS TO OUR MISSION IN LIBYA.

8. FYI: RE YOUR QUESTION ON NUMBER OF LIBYANS AWAITING US VISAS, AT LAST COUNT (FEB 9) THERE WERE TWO LIBYAN TOURISTS IN BUENOS AIRES AND TWO (ONE STUDENT, ONE TOURIST) IN ROME, IN ADDITION TO APPLICANTS AT TRIPOLI. END FYI: GDS. ROGERS UNQUOTE ROGERS

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